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CONFIDENTIAL

12 December 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy Director, Intelligence

FROM: Deputy Assistant Director, C&D

SUBJECT: Travel of Soviet Service Attaches Outside the Washington Area

1. It has come to my attention that Engineer Major Leonid E. Pivnev, Assistant Air Attache, and Engineer Commodore Peter A. Favorov, Assistant Naval Attache, attached to the Russian Embassy, Washington, D.C., attended the National Electronics Conference in Chicago, Illinois, 29 September to 1 October 1952.

2. Doubting the propriety of their attendance at this conference, I have made a personal check on the circumstances and I am forwarding the following facts to you for your information and possible action.

25X1 (a) The report reached me through an [] Liaison Officer who had been requested by [] to inquire from State as to permission having been given these two Attaches to leave this immediate area. 25X1

25X1 (b) [] in turn had been asked to check on these two Attaches by an OSI representative who had seen these two Russians at the conference.

(c) Upon checking with OSI, I found that [] had seen these individuals and raised the question. He reports that the two Soviet Attaches operated very openly, closely inspected all equipment, and asked the equipment people such specific questions as "and how do you use this new electronic device?", and the reply was made "this is one of the main components of our new guided missiles". I need not add that the AD/SI and others are quite exercised at the fact that these Soviets attended this conference. 25X1

(d) I understand from the Air Force that they do not exercise any control over the Air Attaches travel but merely report a Soviet Air Attache's proposed travel to the State Department. The report they receive regarding proposed travel must be submitted 48 hours prior to departure and does not require any reason for the trip.

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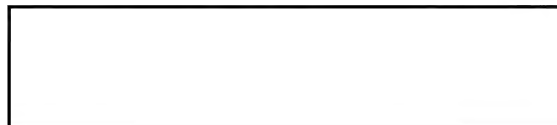
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(e) My State Department Liaison Officer reports that in turn the State Department merely notes that the travel is to take place and no further action to my knowledge is taken.

3. It would appear to me that if, upon further investigation, the procedures as I have found them to be are correct, the problem is one that should be thoroughly reviewed and remedial action taken if policy so dictates.

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DEC 12 1952

Mr. Henry A. Byroade
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Byroade:

I appreciate Mr. Acheson's thoughtfulness in having passed to me a copy of Ambassador Bowles' letter dated 28 October 1952. The observations and judgments in such a letter are always of interest and of value to us in the intelligence community.

I note that the Ambassador's letter was probably written before he had an opportunity to review SE-32, "Consequences of Communist Control Over South Asia," a national intelligence estimate published on 3 October. This estimate was, by its terms of reference, somewhat unrealistic as far as what the situation would be outside of India if India were to turn communist. Nevertheless, the conclusions, while somewhat less alarming, are in general agreement with those which the Ambassador presents on the seriousness of a Communist seizure of power in India.

We have no recent national intelligence estimate on probable political and economic developments in India. The views expressed in HIE-23, "India's Position in the East-West Conflict," published 4 September 1951, are less pessimistic than those of Ambassador Bowles. But perhaps our new estimate of the Indian situation, scheduled for late February, will require modification of our previous views.

If you should require the collective views of the intelligence community on this subject before we plan to have this new estimate ready, please let Mr. Armstrong know.

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WALTER B. SMITH
Director

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PREPARED BY O/NE

cc: Mr. W. Park Armstrong, Jr.
Special Assistant, Intelligence
Department of State

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MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SMITH

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1. On 18 November, Mr. Byroade sent us a copy of a rather alarming letter by Ambassador Bowles on next year's Indian Aid Program. This letter has been analyzed by O/NE with the conclusions that the 3 October Special Estimate, "Consequences of Communist Control Over South Asia," are in general agreement, although somewhat less alarming.

2. The attached letter, for your signature, informs Mr. Byroade that an estimate on India is scheduled for late February.

Rah.
RA Jr. *jrc*

SECRET

8 December 1952

(DATE)

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